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Département à
La Haye
Division de la
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Datum/Date

12. 10. 2001

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

1979/GM/fh

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

01101102.0

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire
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COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☐ the European search report
- ☒ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

☒ Abstract

☒ Title

☒ Figure

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.

Figure:

☐ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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EPO Form 1507 02.93



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DECLARATION

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 01 10 1102 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

Application Number

EP 01 10 1102

The Search Division considers that the present application, does not comply with the provisions of the EPC to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of all claims

Reason:

The subject-matter claimed in claims 7-11 falls under the provisions of Article 52(2) and (3) EPC, such subject-matter relating to a method of doing business as such.

Claims 1-6 relate to commonplace technological features for performing the business method of the method claims. Although these claims do not literally belong to the method category, they essentially claim protection for the same commercial effect as the method claims. With reference to the Guidelines, B-VIII, points 1-6, the Search Division considers that searching such commercial features would serve no useful purpose. This applies to the remaining commonplace technological features of these claims as well.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that a search may be carried out during examination following a declaration of no search under Rule 45 EPC, should the problems which led to the declaration being issued be overcome (see EPC Guideline C-VI, 8.5).

CLASSIFICATION OF THE
APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)

G06F17/60

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EPO FORM 1504 (P/M/C37)

Place of search

THE HAGUE

Date

25 September 2001

Examiner

Suendermann, R